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642 Outside of the spheres set forth in Art. 14 of the Constitution of the USSR, the Estonian SSR exercises state authority independently, retaining its sovereign rights in full.

[701] Art. 13a. The Estonian SSR has its own Republican military formations.

649 Art. 13b. The Estonian SSR has the right to enter into direct relations with foreign states and to conclude agreements and exchange diplomatic and consular representatives with them.

631 Art. 14. The Estonian SSR consists of the districts of Kharjuma, Harvama, Lyunema, Petserima, Pyarnuma, Sartuma, Tartuma, Valgama, Viljandima, Virtuma, Vyruma; and of the cities of Tallin, Tartu, Narva, Pyarnu and Paldiski which do not form part of districts.

642 Art. 15. The Estonian SSR reserves the right freely to secede from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Art. 16. The territory of the Estonian SSR may not be altered without its consent.

Art. 17. The laws of the USSR are binding within the territory of the Estonian SSR.

644 Art. 18. Every citizen of the Estonian SSR is a citizen of the USSR. Citizens of all other Union Republics enjoy on the territory of the Estonian SSR equal rights with citizens of the Estonian SSR.[1]

642 Art. 19. The jurisdiction of the Estonian SSR as represented by its higher organs of state power and organs of state administration, embraces:

a) Adoption of the Constitution of the Estonian SSR and control over its observance;

b) Establishment of the administrative-territorial divisions of the Estonian SSR and of the boundaries of districts and volosts;

c) Legislation of the Estonian SSR;

d) Maintenance of public order and safeguarding the rights of citizens;

e) Approval of the national-economic plan of the Estonian SSR;

f) Approval of the state budget of the Estonian SSR and of the report on its fulfilment;

g) Determination of state and local taxes; imposts and matax revenues in conformity with the laws of the USSR, as well as direction of the fulfilment of local budgets;

h) Direction of insurance and savings;

i) Administration of the banks, industrial, agricultural and trading enterprises and organizations subordinate to the Republic, as well as direction of local industry;

j) Control and superintendence of the condition and administration of enterprises subordinate to the Union;

k) Establishment of the procedure governing the use of land, mineral wealth, forests and waters;

l) Direction of dwelling-houses and the municipal economy, dwelling house construction and the modernization of cities and other inhabited places;

[1] [Errata: Cf. Errata sheet, Cat. 116, p.iii for addition--Analyst]

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Chapter V. The Local Organs of State Power

[631] Art. 52. The organs of state power in districts, cities, volosts, settlements and villages are the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 53. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of districts, cities, volosts, settlements and villages are elected by the working people of the respective districts, cities, volosts, settlements and villages for a term of two years.

Art. 54. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of districts, cities, volosts, settlements and villages direct cultural, political and economic affairs on their territory, draw up the local budgets, direct the work of the organs of administration subordinate to them, ensure the maintenance of public order, assist in strengthening the defensive capacity of the country and ensure the observance of the laws and the protection of the rights of citizens.

Art. 55. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies adopt decisions and issue orders within the limits of the powers vested in them by the laws of the USSR and the Estonian SSR.

Art. 56. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of districts, cities, volosts, settlements and villages is the Executive Committee elected by it, consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and members.

[623] Art. 57. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies in small volosts, cities, settlements and villages is the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary elected by the Soviet of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 58. The Executive Committees of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies exercise guidance in cultural, political and economic affairs within their territory on the basis of decisions taken by the corresponding Soviets of Working People's Deputies and superior state organs.

Art. 59. Sessions of district Soviets of Working People's Deputies are convened by their Executive Committees not less than four times a year.

[623] Art. 60. Sessions of volost Soviets of Working People's Deputies are convened by their respective Executive Committees not less than six times a year.

Art. 61. Sessions of Soviets of Working People's Deputies of cities, settlements and villages are convened by their respective executive organs not less than once a month.

Art. 62. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies each elect a Chairman and a Secretary for the duration of their sessions to conduct the sittings of the sessions.

The Chairman of a village Soviet convenes the Soviet and conducts its sittings.

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631 Art. 63. The executive organs of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies are directly accountable both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies which elected them and to the executive organs of the respective superior Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 64. The superior Executive Committees of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies have the right to annul decisions and orders of inferior Executive Committees and to suspend decisions and orders of inferior Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 65. The superior Soviets of Working People's Deputies have the right to annul decisions and orders of inferior Soviets of Working People's Deputies and of their Executive Committees.

632 Art. 66. The district Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments of their Executive Committees:

- a Department of Land
- a Department of Finance
- a Department of Trade
- a Department of Public Health
- a Department of Public Education
- a Department of Local Industry
- a Department of the Municipal Economy
- a Department of Labor
- a Department of Roads
- a General Department
- a Planning Commission, and a Cadres Sector

under the Chairman of the Executive Committees and in addition, in accordance with the specific features of the economy of the district, the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies may set up other Departments or Administrations subject to confirmation by the corresponding Ministries.

[625] Art. 67. The all-Union Ministries and the Ministry of Internal Affairs set up their Administrations under the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies in accordance with the conditions of the district and on the basis of the laws of the USSR and of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 68. The Departments and Administrations of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministries of the Estonian SSR.

633 Art. 69. The city Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments of their Executive Committees:

- a Department of Public Health
- a Department of the Municipal Economy
- a Department of Labour
- a Department of Public Education
- a General Department
- a Department of Social Maintenance
- a Department of Trade
- a Department of Finance
- a Planning Commission
- a Cadres Sector

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633 under the Chairman of the Executive Committee and, in addition, in accordance with the specific features of the city's industry and its suburban and municipal economy,

a Department of Local Industry and
a Department of Land.

Art. 70. The Departments of the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the respective city Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Departments of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 71. The Departments of the Tallin, Tartu, Narva, Pyarnu and Paldiski City Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of these cities and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministry of the Estonian SSR directly.

631 Art. 72. On the expiration of the terms of office of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies, their executive and administrative organs retain their powers until the newly elected Soviets shall have formed new executive and administrative organs.

Chapter VI. The Budget of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic

652 Art. 73. The state budget of the Estonian SSR is drawn up by the Council [645] of Ministers of the Estonian SSR and submitted by it to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for its approval.

Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR the 644 state budget of the Estonian SSR is published for general information.

Art. 74. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR elects a Budget Commission, which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Estonian SSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 75. The report on the fulfilment of the state budget of the Estonian SSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and published for general information.

631 Art. 76. The budgets of the district, city, volost, settlement and village [652] Soviets include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from the state revenues collected within their territory and likewise receipts from local taxes and imposts in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and the Estonian SSR.

Chapter VII. The Courts and the Procurator's Office

692 Art. 77. In the Estonian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR, the District Courts, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the People's Courts.